

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 426

WHEREAS, Ambassador John Bruton, Head of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Community in the United States of America, is visiting Texas, and this occasion provides a welcome opportunity to honor the many achievements of this admired political leader and statesman; and

WHEREAS, A native of Ireland who was educated at University College Dublin, Ambassador Bruton was first elected to the Irish Parliament in 1969 at age 22; over the ensuing decades, he held a number of important government positions, including minister for finance, minister for industry and energy, and minister for trade, commerce, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, he became the leader of the Fine Gael Party, and when he led the party into government in 1994, he took office as Ireland's prime minister; during the three years that he guided the government, he helped bring about the phenomenal economic growth that earned the country the nickname of "Celtic Tiger"; in addition, he was instrumental in a number of other important developments, including negotiations that led to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 that has eased tensions in Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, Ambassador Bruton's involvement with the European Union began during his tenure as prime minister, and he later served as a leading member of the convention that drafted the proposed European Constitution; in 1999, he became one of the 10 vice presidents of the European People's Party and continued in that role until 2004, when he was appointed the head of the European Union Commission to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since beginning his work in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Bruton has consulted with the United States president, members of congress, and other senior political and business figures, and his skilled diplomacy has helped foster cooperation between the European Union and the United States on a range of urgent issues; these endeavors, as well as his many other impressive accomplishments, have distinguished John Bruton as a leader of rare ability, and it is an honor to welcome him to the State of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby pay tribute to Ambassador John Bruton, Head of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Community in the United States of America, and extend to him sincere best wishes for a productive and enjoyable visit to the Lone Star State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Ambassador Bruton as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 16, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate